

# Water systems need quality upgrading

Continued from B-1

those who has been critical of some of the practices of the Safe Drinking Water Committee in the past.

In a recent committee meeting, Redd said requirements from the committee ordering chlorination on his system were unnecessary.

"We have good quality water. I think we've done a lot to clean up the water supply in our part of town," he said.

"You don't do anything about people in downtown Las Vegas who sink wells in their back yards next to septic tanks that are next to more wells and more septic tanks," he said.

Hilbert said, "We don't have any jurisdiction over someone who sinks a well in their back yard and doesn't supply water to anyone else. But, local boards of health do."

Health Department officials told Redd that if he reduced the number of connections his water company services, then it would not be considered a public water agency and would not need to chlorinate its water. Otherwise, chlorination is required.

Redd's company provides water for a school, several homes and his livestock company.

State and federal law defines a public water system to be one that supplies water for human consumption or domestic use for at least 15 service connections or to an average of 25 people for 60 days a year.

One of the biggest problems the committee and the State Department of Health face is that many water systems do not supply samples of their water for testing as required.

Some of those who do so cheat by adding chlorine to kill bacteria to give the appearance of high-grade water, Hilbert said.

"That is foolish because closing your eyes to a problem only hurts you and your customers," he said.

Local health departments do make occasional spot checks on water quality to confirm other water quality checks.

"We require different numbers of samples according to how many connections a system has. A small system is required to send only one sample a month. Large ones send up to 70 samples a month," he said.

The state charges the systems \$5 to process each sample. Redd said the state should pay that cost because it requires the tests.

Redd also said many of the improvements required by the committee are expensive for the small companies and may not be necessary.

Hilbert said the committee is sympathetic to the concerns of water agencies and realizes many of them face strict budgetary constraints.

"Many small cities have budget problems and struggle in setting priorities. Unfortunately, water is given a low priority by many of them," he said.

Six of the 11 members of the committee come from agencies that the committee regulates. They are sympathetic to the needs of the agencies," he said. Hilbert himself is general manager of the large Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District.

Hilbert said he feels the best way to solve water quality problems in the state is by more training of water system operators and better education of the public to bring support to upgrading water systems.

The committee is now pushing

for the passage of SRS, which would require certification by the committee of operators of public water systems.

The bill passed the Senate 21-1, and is now in the House. Redd has spoken against the bill in a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters and has pledged to fight it.

Hilbert said the bill would require operators to go through basic training on the operation of systems and to take a test on that training.

"We would have four different types of certification based on the complexity of the systems. Operators of smaller agencies would need to know the basics like how to chlorinate, how to fix broken pipes and how to take water samples.

Operators of larger agencies would really need to know their stuff, though," Hilbert said.

## 1-83 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE WASATCH CITY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH WASATCH COUNTY, UTAH

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the 1983 Annual Meeting Schedule of the Wasatch City-County Board of Health is as follows:

- January 17
- February 22
- March 21
- April 18
- May 23
- June 20
- July 18
- August 15
- September 19
- October 17
- November 21
- December 19

Meetings of the health board are held in the Commission Chambers, County Courthouse, 25 North Main Street, Heber City, Utah commencing at 12:00 P.M.

Published in the Wasatch Wave January 6th and 13th, 1983.

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